

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

The present invention as set forth in **amended Claim 1** relates to a **conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric** which has a thickness of from 0.05 to 1 mm, a weight per a unit area of from 60 to 250 g/m², a bending resistance (L) as determined by the 45° Cantilever method of 6 cm or higher, and an in-plane volume resistivity of 0.2 Ω cm or lower.

wherein the fabric comprises a binder or a product of carbonization of the binder in an amount of from 10 to 40% by weight and comprises carbonaceous fibers bonded to one another with the binder or its carbonization product through point contact,

wherein the binder or its carbonization product is present discontinuously as particles on the surface of the fibers.

New Claim 28 relates to the **conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric which is obtained by weaving the yarns of carbonaceous fibers**.

Miwa et al (US 4,851,304), Koshany et al (US 6,183,898), Schultz (US 3,960,601), Tajiri et al (US 5,648,027) and Kato (US 6,127,059), alone or in combination fail to disclose or suggest a conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in Claim 1 or a conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric which is obtained by weaving the yarns of carbonaceous fibers, as claimed in Claim 28.

Miwa et al only discloses that chopped carbon fibers that are made into carbon fiber mats or sheets by stirring the chopped fibers in a dispersant containing a binder for paper making. By means of paper making, the chopped fibers are dispersed in random directions and bound to each other with the binder. The obtained mat is then impregnated with a resin carbonizable by heat. The product is carbonized. See Miwa et al, col. 7, lines 14-60. The resulting carbon paper is different from the claimed fabric.

Further, in one embodiment, the binder used in the present invention is capable of being carbonized, resulting in a carbonization product of the binder. However, Miwa et al need in addition to the binder a carbonizable resin. See Miwa et al, col. 7, lines 55 and 56.

Tajiri et al disclose a paper-like web containing a precursor fiber convertible to carbon fiber and/or a carbon fiber, a thermosetting resin, a pitch and optionally a particulate organic substance. See Tajiri et al, col. 3, last two lines to col. 4, line 23. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion of a conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric as claimed in Claim 1 or a conductive carbonaceous-fiber fabric which is obtained by weaving the yarns of carbonaceous fibers, as claimed in Claim 28.

The secondary references Koshany et al, Schultz, and Kato do not cure the defects of the primary references.

Thus, even a combination of Miwa et al, Koshany et al, Schultz, Tajiri et al and Kato cannot result in the present invention.

Therefore, the rejections over Miwa et al (US 4,851,304), Koshany et al (US 6,183,898), Schultz (US 3,960,601), Tajiri et al (US 5,648,027) and Kato (US 6,127,059) are believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Application No.: 10/083,385

Reply to the Office Action dated: January 21, 2005

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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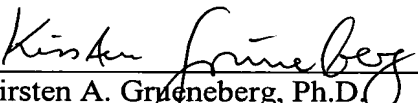
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